

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 9-17, 19-25 and 28-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7, 8, 18, 26 and 27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Independent claims 1, 15, 20 and 32 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter recited in the rejected claims. Claims 9 and 28 are amended only to correct their dependencies due to the canceled subject matter. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

**I. Allowable Subject Matter**

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 18 and 27 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 8, as well as intervening claim 7. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 9-14 are in condition for allowance. Independent claim 15 is rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18. Accordingly, claims 15-17 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Independent claim 20 is rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 27, as well as intervening claim 26. Accordingly, claims 20-25 and 28-31 are in condition for allowance. Finally, independent claim 32 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18. Accordingly, claim 32 is in condition for allowance. As only claims

reciting allowable subject matter is pending in this application, the application is in condition for allowance.

**II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 12, 15-17, 19-21, 23-25 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0026244 to Pietrowicz et al. (Pietrowicz) in view of U.S. Patent 6,480,581 to Wu et al. (Wu); claims 3, 13, 14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Pietrowicz and Wu in view of WO 1/65786 to Erekson et al. (Erekson); and claims 7, 9, 10, 26, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Pietrowicz and Wu and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,741,835 to Pulver. As claims 7 and 26 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of the remaining pending claims, non-allowed claims is respectfully traversed.

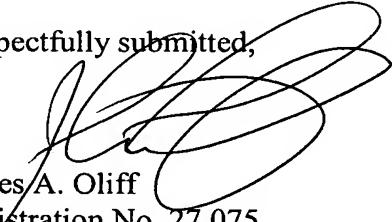
As the pending claims have been amended to recite allowable subject matter, none of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the amended rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

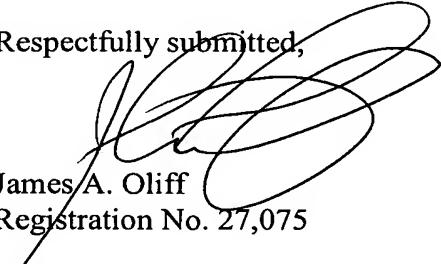
**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 9-17, 19-25 and 28-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: January 20, 2006

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